



www.AutismSpeaks.org

May 14, 2013

The Honorable Greg Harper **US** House of Representatives 307 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Harper:

I am writing to thank you for your leadership on behalf of America's autism community, as demonstrated by your commitment to prioritize autism and pediatric research through the Kids First Research Act. As you know, recent CDC data suggests the prevalence of autism is closer to 1 in 50 children. As you also know, many of these individuals also have Fragile X Syndrome and your commitment to this community has made a real difference during your time in Washington, DC. It is critical to the autism community that we have national leadership to address the epidemic growth of this disorder.

I am grateful that you and your colleagues recognize this crisis and are striving to address it in several policy areas, including research, disability savings accounts and improved services for our military families affected by autism. I am particularly encouraged by your desire to see autism and pediatric research elevated as a priority at the National Institutes of Health through the Kids First Research Act.

I look forward to working with you in the days and weeks ahead in addressing America's autism crisis.

Sincerely,

President, Autism Speaks